

REMARKS

The comments of the Examiner as set forth in the official office action of November 6, 2003 have been carefully studied and reviewed.

In this response, the drawings have been corrected as suggested by the Examiner. In addition, the objections made to the specification and claims have been addressed.

Claims 1, 2, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Ikegami, U.S. Patent No. 4,015,785. The Examiner maintains that Ikegami discloses a wire winding machine having a mandrel with a removable end cap 10 that actuates clamp 9A, 10A. It is respectfully urged that Ikegami does not anticipate the claims in the present application.

Under 35 USC §102, every element or limitation of a claim must identically appear in a single prior art reference for it to anticipate the claim. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 832 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Further, anticipation requires that the single prior art reference disclose every element of the claimed invention arranged in the same manner as claimed. *Lindemann Maschinenfabrik v. American Hoist & Derrick Co.*, 730 F.2d 1452, 1458 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

In determining if a claim is anticipated, it is fundamental that the claim first be correctly construed. That is, the scope and meaning of each contested limitation must be determined. *Gechter v. Davidson*, 116 F.3d 1454, 1457 (Fed. Cir. 1997); *In re Paulsen*, 30 F.3d 1475, 1479 (Fed. Cir. 1994). Thereafter, corresponding elements of the allegedly anticipating reference are identified. *Lindemann* at 1458. In the end, there can be no anticipation unless each and every element and limitation of the claimed invention, as properly construed, is found in the single prior art reference.

The cover 10 in Ikegami is not an end cap for the mandrel. Indeed the cover 10 does not form a part of the mandrel. To the contrary, the covers 9 and 10 form no part of the bobbin, but simply move back and forth and assist in inducing and guiding the end of the wire 2 to the bobbin. See Ikegami, col. 5, lines 1-9.

Claim 1 has now been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim that the mandrel has a removable end cap that forms a part of the mandrel and rotates therewith during a wire winding operation and which is removable from a mandrel to enable a wire winding to be removed from the mandrel. Claim 1 further provides for a clamp and a cutter for securing a wire to said mandrel and cutting the wire in response to the end cap being secured to the mandrel. Further, claim 1 is amended and now calls for the mandrel having the removable end cap that forms a part of the mandrel and rotates therewith during the wire winding operation. Further, claim 1 calls for the end cap to be removable from the mandrel to enable a wire winding to be removed, and in response to the removal of the end cap the clamp releases the wire. Again, the cited reference, Ikegami, does not include the end cap that effectively drives the clamp and cutter. The cover 10 in Ikegami cannot be construed to be a removable end cap of a mandrel. Again, the term "end cap" for a mandrel as used herein means an end portion of the actual mandrel that retains the wire during the winding operation. That is, the "end cap" of the mandrel forms an end of the mandrel for confining the wire during the wire winding operation. Under no circumstances can Ikegami be construed to include an end cap that drives a clamp and cutter. Ikegami does include an end cap for the bobbin. But the real end cap does not have anything to do with a clamping or cutting structure.

In addition, claim 1 is rejected as being anticipated by the patent to Cash, U.S. Patent No. 6,352,215. The Examiner takes the position here that the clamping pads 4 secure the wire to the mandrel in response to the end cap being secured to the mandrel. Claim 1 has now been amended to recite that the wire is both clamped and cut in response to the end cap being secured to the mandrel. It is clear that the clamping pads 4 of Cash do not both clamp the wire and cut the wire in response to the end cap being placed on the mandrel. In fact, it appears at best, the clamping pads 4 of Cash simply expand outwardly and engage the entire wire winding. As properly construed, the clamping and cutting device set forth in claim 1 deals with clamping and cutting a strand of wire and the claim cannot be construed so broadly as to simply relate to

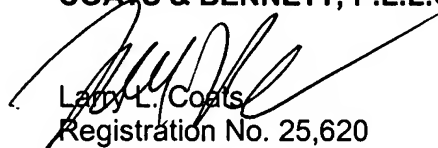
clamping an entire wire winding. Nevertheless, claim 1 has been amended to include both the clamp and the cutter. Certainly Cash does not show the cutter nor the relationship between the removable end cap and the cutter.

New claims 11-13 have been added. These claims are directed to a method for transferring wire to the mandrel. For the same reasons set forth above, claims 11-13 define over Ikegami and Cash.

Respectfully submitted,

COATS & BENNETT, P.L.L.C.

By:

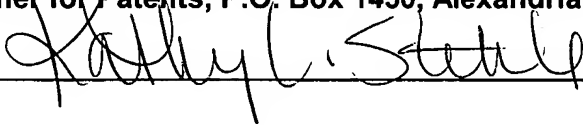

Larry L. Coats
Registration No. 25,620

P.O. Box 5
Raleigh, NC 27602
Telephone: (919) 854-1844

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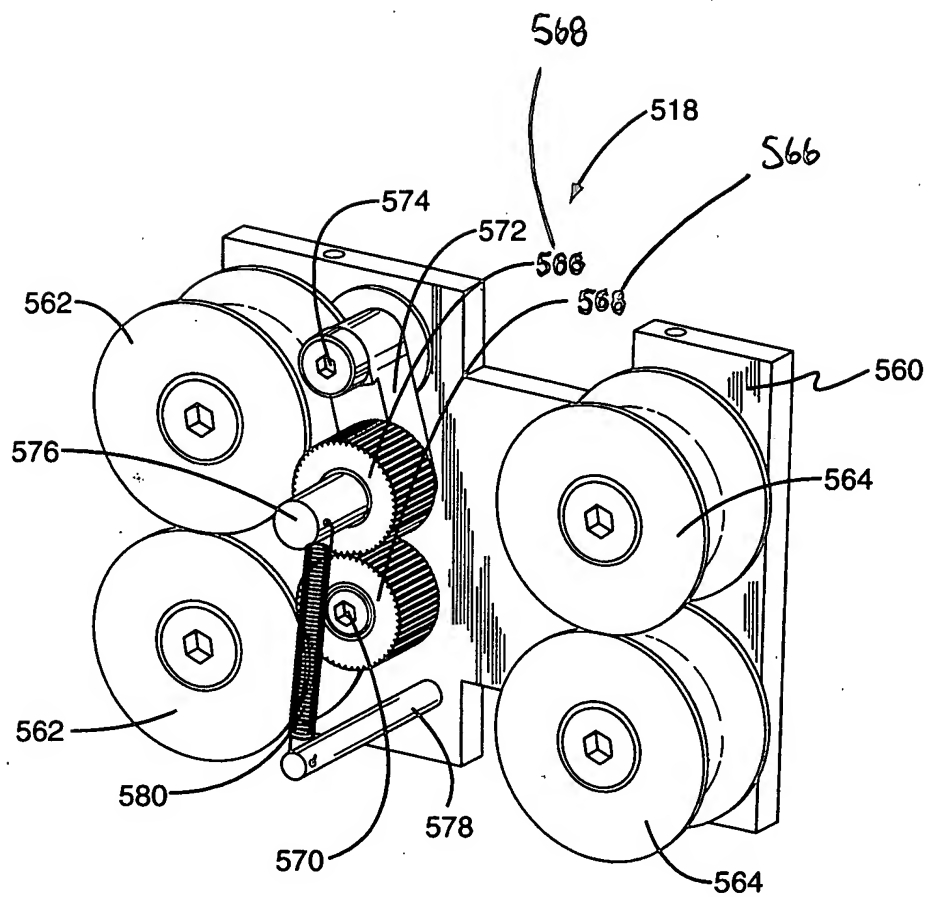


FIG. 8A